

14.32 hrs.

COPRA CESS BILL*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the imposition of cess on copra for the development of the coconut industry and for matters connected therewith.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara): Sir, on a point of order. Has he got the consent of the President to introduce the Bill? It is a financial Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, the consent has been given. The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the imposition of cess on copra for the development of the coconut industry and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I introduced† the Bill.

WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) AMENDMENT BILL*

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 25-7-78.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: I introduce the Bill.

14.34 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED DECISION OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO CLOSE DOWN KONKAN PASSENGER LINE.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Sir, with your permission, I beg to draw the attention of the Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance:

"The decision of the Central Government to close down Konkan Passenger Line, the lack of any cheap mode of transport for western coast passengers, the consequential unemployment to hundreds of people, the efforts by the Government through the Government of Maharashtra and Goa to subsidise this utility public transport and the reaction of the Government thereupon."

(ii) REPORTED HEAVY FLOODS ENDANGERING NATIONAL HIGHWAY No. 31 AND RAILWAY LINES IN BIHAR.

श्री राम बिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर):
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मदन का ध्यान बिहार की भयंकर बाढ़ के प्रकोप की घोर प्राकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। समाचार पत्रों से तो ज्ञात ही है कि उत्तर बिहार में बाढ़ का भयंकर प्रकोप है तथा सेना की मदद ली जा रही है। अब तक करोड़ों की क्षति हो गई है, जन-धन, पशु-सर्वा का जीवन संकट में है लेकिन सब से सोचनीय विषय है कि बिहार के राष्ट्रीय उच्च राजपत्र नं० 31 एवं रेलवे लाइन, जो खगड़िया-मानसो घोर नारायणपुर के बीच में है, को बाढ़ से गंभीर खतरा उत्पन्न हो गया है।

उच्च राजस्व से गंगा नदी की दूरी मात्र 100 गज है जो किसी भी समय कट सकता है और राष्ट्रीय संकट उत्पन्न कर सकता है। राज्य एवं केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से उसे बचाने हेतु करोड़ों रुपये खर्च किये गये हैं लेकिन उस का अधिकांश भाग ठेकेदार एवं इंजीनियर की जेब में चला जाता है। हाजीपुर का राधोपुर प्रखण्ड पूरा गंगा के पेट में चला गया है। महानगर प्रखण्ड का प्राधा भाग कट गया है।

ऐसी स्थिति में भारत सरकार से मांग है कि सरकार अखिलम्ब बिहार में बाढ़-पीड़ितों के सहायताार्थ युद्ध स्तर पर कार्य करे तथा खगड़िया मानसो एवं नारायणपुर के बीच राजकीय उच्च मार्ग नं० 31 की रक्षा का भार ठेकेदार एवं इंजीनियर को न दे कर सेना की मदद से स्वयं करे।

(iii) REPORTED INFERIOR QUALITY OF CEMENT PRODUCED BY FACTORIES.

SHRI G. NARASIMHA REDDY (Adilabad): Cement industries are producing inferior quality of cement calling it as "Pozuluna Cement" by mixing 15 per cent Pozulonic material, e.g. burnt brick etc. The said cement is sold at the same price. The cost of production is less than Portland Cement while the consumer has to incur more expenditure in utilising this cement compared to Portland Cement. Thus, the producer makes more profit at the cost of the consumers' cost of construction. The Government should take necessary action to reduce the price of "Pozuluna Cement" and declare openly and give wide publicity that this is inferior quality.

14.38 hrs.

AIR (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) BILL—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Sik-

andar Bakht on the 20th July, 1978, namely:

"That the Bill to provide for the prevention, control and abatement of air pollution, for the establishment, with a view to carrying out the aforesaid purpose, of Boards for the prevention and control of air pollution for conferring on and assigning to such Boards powers and functions relating thereto and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

and amendments thereon.

Dr. Saradish Roy may continue.

DR. SARADISH ROY (Bolpur): The other day, while speaking on this Bill, I mentioned the amount of pollutants thrown into the atmosphere of Calcutta daily. I also mentioned that there is a wrong notion in our country that we are not industrially much advanced, and so pollution of the air or water is not so dangerous in our country. It is also a fact that air and water pollution is 60 times more in American than in our country. So, this notion has got deep roots, and from the Government's side also no attempt has been made to legislate and implement some measures so that a clean environment and atmosphere can be maintained for human plant and animal life.

Industry being concentrated in the cities without proper precautions to prevent air pollution, conditions in some places have become very dangerous, and in some ways we are leading in pollution in some cities. For instance in Calcutta the carbon monoxide content in the air is much more than in New York City, and the sulphur dioxide content in some parts of Bombay is above the average in Western countries.

Industries and power plants are not the source only of air pollution. In most cities, the motor vehicles and especially the public diesel transport system are also responsible. More